

### **REMARKS**

The Office Action dated August 26, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 5, 8, and 28 have been amended such that they are now in independent form. Claims 2-4, 7, 9, 25, 26 and 29 have been amended to be dependent upon claims 5, 8, and 28, respectively. Claims 1, 6, 24, and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added, and no new issues are raised which require further consideration or search. Therefore, claims 2-5, 7-23, 25, 26, and 28-33 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action stated that claims 10-23 were allowed over the prior art of record. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that these claims are allowed.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, and 24-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Egbert (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,654). Claims 5, 8, and 28-33 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 6, 24, and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 5, 8, and 28 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base

claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 8, and 28 are now in condition for allowance.

Additionally, applicants submit that claims 2-4, 7 and 9, and 25-26 are dependent upon claims 5, 8, and 28, respectively. Therefore, claims 2-4, 7, 9, and 25-26 should be found allowable for at least their dependence upon claims 5, 8, and 28, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully assert that all of presently pending claims 2-5, 7-23, 25, 26, and 28-33 are now in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 2-5, 7-23, 25, 26, and 28-33 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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